



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone (517) 373-0128

Carl L. Gromek, Chief of Staff
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 12, 2006

TO: Circuit Judges
cc: Circuit Court Administrators

FROM: Carl L. Gromek

RE: Jury System Surveys for Circuit Courts and Circuit Court Judges

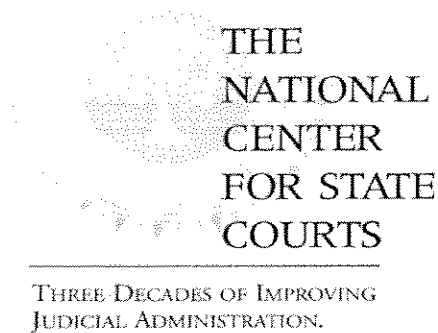
The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) recently notified the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) that it received fewer surveys regarding jury practices and procedures from Michigan circuit courts and circuit court judges than it had hoped to receive. Only 18 of Michigan's 57 circuit courts and 56 of 217 circuit court judges have submitted completed surveys.

The NCSC has asked that SCAO again request your assistance in completing and submitting the surveys. Doing so will help to ensure that Michigan's contribution to the nation's first-ever directory of jury practices is as complete as possible.

The survey for circuit court judges can be accessed online at http://www.ncsconline.org/d_research/practitionerssurvey/. It is a short survey that takes less than 10 minutes to complete. The circuit court survey is attached for your convenience.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Chris Connelly with the National Center for State Courts at cconnelly@ncsc.dni.us or 703-841-6909.

National Program to Increase Citizen Participation in Jury Service



The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has undertaken its National Program to Increase Citizen Participation in Jury Service, a multi-phase project designed to promote public awareness and understanding of jury service and to support state and local courts in their efforts to improve the jury system.

One objective of this project is to document state and local law, policy, and practice concerning jury system management and jury trial procedures. To accomplish this objective, NCSC staff is surveying a number of courts across the state to obtain an accurate picture of local jury practices. Your responses to the attached survey will greatly assist us in this effort.

Completed surveys can be sent to Chris Connelly electronically or at the address listed below. If you would like more information about the National Program or other jury-related projects of the NCSC, contact him at 1-800-532-0204 x6909 or cconnelly@ncsc.dni.us.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Chris Connelly
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The National Program is now underway thanks to the generous donations of the following law firms: Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi L.L.P. (\$100,000 Legacy Donor); Shook, Hardy & Bacon, L.L.P.; Product Liability Advisory Council Foundation; Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Reed Smith LLP; SimmonsCooper LLC; Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP; Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll, P.L.L.C.; Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Susman Godfrey LLP; The Olender Foundation; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP; Levin Papantonio Thomas Mitchell Echner & Proctor P.A.; Shearman & Sterling LLP; Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Mark A. Modlin, T.C.; Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP; Gregory P. Joseph Law Offices LLC; Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.; DecisionQuest

National Program to Increase Citizen Participation in Jury Service

**State of the States
Local Court Survey**

Court: _____

Date: _____

County in which court is located:

State:

1. Current Status of Local Jury Improvement/Jury Reform Efforts

- A. Is there currently or has there been a jury improvement/reform effort in this court in the past five years? Yes / No

If yes, please describe how this effort has been implemented and the contact information for the person organizing this effort.

- B. Is there a local court committee or office concerned with managing or overseeing jury management? Yes / No

If yes, please describe the committee composition (e.g., trial judges, court staff, lawyers, citizens) and contact information for the committee chairperson.

1. Please indicate any current or ongoing jury improvement efforts in this court.

- ☐ Improve the representation in jury pool
- ☐ Improve jury yields
- ☐ Decrease incidence of non-respondents
- ☐ Improve jury facilities
- ☐ Upgrade jury system technology
- ☐ Improve juror utilization
- ☐ Improve juror comprehension (in-court reforms)
- ☐ Improve jury instructions
- ☐ Improve public outreach
- ☐ Other _____

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2. Jury Management and Administration

A. Is the master jury list for this court compiled locally or at the state level?

- ☐ Local
- ☐ State

B. What source lists are used to compile the master jury list?

- ☐ Registered Voter
- ☐ Licensed Driver
- ☐ State Tax Rolls
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Public Assistance
- ☐ Other: _____

C. What are jurors paid in this court?

- ☐ Flat daily rate of \$ _____
- ☐ Graduated rate of \$ _____ for the first day; \$ _____ for _____ days; \$ _____ to the completion of service
- ☐ Reimbursement for mileage/travel at \$ _____
- ☐ Other juror compensation (e.g., reimbursement for child case) \$ _____

D. What is the term of jury service? _____

E. Are jurors summonsed and qualified simultaneously or in two separate steps?

- ☐ Qualification questionnaires and jury summonses are mailed simultaneously (one-step process) in this jurisdiction.
- ☐ Qualification questionnaires are first sent to prospective jurors. Summonses are then sent only to qualified individuals (two-step process) in this jurisdiction.

F. Who decides juror requests to be excused from jury service and what criteria are used for deciding these requests?

- ☐ Judge _____

- ☐ Jury Administrator _____

- ☐ Other _____

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G. How does the court follow-up on persons who fail to respond to summonses or fail to appear for service?

- ☐ Follow-up or Second notice
- ☐ Order to Show Cause
- ☐ Fines (Range \$ _____)
- ☐ Other
- ☐ None

H. Approximately how many jury summonses are mailed each year? _____

I. Please describe the percentage of prospective jurors who are:

Summonses returned as undeliverable	_____ %
Disqualified	_____ %
Exempted	_____ %
Excused for hardship	_____ %
Deferred to another term	_____ %
Non-response / FTA	_____ %
Qualified and available to serve	_____ %

SHOULD TOTAL TO 100%

J. Approximately how many juries are impaneled each year?

Felony:	_____
Misdemeanor	_____
Civil	_____
Other	_____

K. Does your court routinely screen prospective jurors for English language proficiency?

Yes / No

If yes, please describe the procedures used?

L. What accommodations does your court provide for prospective jurors with disabilities?

- ☐ Assisted language devices
- ☐ Sign language interpreters
- ☐ Wheelchair ramps
- ☐ Other (please describe) _____

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M. Please indicate the technologies that support your jury system.

Base System:

- ☐ Jury Systems, Inc. (Jury + / Jury + Next Generation)
- ☐ ACS Government Systems
- ☐ Other commercial software (please specify): _____
- ☐ Software developed in-house

Verification of qualification information

- ☐ First-class mail
- ☐ Interactive Voice Response (IVR) interface
- ☐ Internet interface
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Reporting technology

- ☐ Jurors receive summons only
- ☐ Jurors receive postcard informing them when to report
- ☐ Jurors receive automated telephone call informing them when to report
- ☐ Jurors call in, listen to telephone message informing them when to report
- ☐ Jurors log on to court webpage with information about when to report
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Orientation

- ☐ Jurors receive live orientation at courthouse
- ☐ Jurors receive informational brochure/booklet with summons
- ☐ Jurors can read orientation materials at court website
- ☐ Jurors can view orientation videotape online at court website
- ☐ Jurors can view orientation videotape on local cable television
- ☐ Jurors can view orientation videotape at local public library
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

National Program to Increase Citizen Participation in Jury Service

3. Voir Dire Procedures and Practices

A. What kinds of juror information are routinely available to attorneys prior to trial?

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Street Address
- ☐ Zip code or Neighborhood designation only
- ☐ Qualification information
- ☐ Marital status
- ☐ Occupation / Employer
- ☐ Number and ages of minor children
- ☐ Other: _____

B. Are attorneys routinely given access to jurors' qualification questionnaires? Y / N

C. Do prospective jurors complete a standardized questionnaire for voir dire purposes?

Y / N

If yes, where can we obtain a copy? _____

D. What is the typical length of voir dire in hours?

Capital Felony: _____

Non-capital felony: _____

Misdemeanor: _____

Civil: _____

E. What local court rules, policies, or procedures exist to protect juror privacy during jury

selection, during trial, or after completing jury service?

Name and Title of Survey Respondent: _____

Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please send completed responses to:

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